Investment in Mumbai High oilfields

401. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has any plan to re-develop its prime Mumbai High Oil fields to arrest production decline from the ageing fields;

(b) if so, the quantum of investment proposed to be made for the purpose; and

(c) the quantum of additional oil expected on account of the investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J PATEL): (a) To arrest the oil production decline in Mumbai High field, major initiatives in the form of redevelopment programme were being launched by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in 2000-01. These projects are redevelopment projects of Mumbai High North (MHN) and Mumbai High South (MHS). The inputs envisaged under these projects have been completed by April 2007. The implementation of these projects has successfully arrested the production decline from Mumbai High field.

A project for Additional development of A1 Layer of L-III reservoir of Mumbai High North is currently under implementation and will be completed during 2007-08.

In order to maintain the high level of production and further improve the oil recovery from Mumbai High field, the feasibility study for next phase of re-development program is being carried out by ONGC.

(b) and (c) The quantum of investment proposed to be made for next phase of redevelopment programme and the quantum of additional oil expected would depend on feasibility study.

India-Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline agreement

†402. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas pipeline agreement has been finalized among India, Pakistan and Iran;

(b) if not, the hurdles being faced in finalizing this agreement;

(c) the efforts being made to solve the problems being faced in finalizing this agreements; and

(d) by when the country is likely to get gas after finalizing of this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests as also to avoid any future problems in the successful operation of the project.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline.

(d) Apart from other issues, the schedule of gas import from the proposed pipeline is also under discussion.

Development of tourism in Rajasthan

†403. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have prepared any outlines for development of different tourist places in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Central Government have any scheme regarding development of new tourist places alongwith old tourist places, if so, the nature of such scheme; and

(c) the names of districts in Rajasthan for which the proposal of development of different tourist places have been received by the Central Government from the State Government and out of them the names of tourist places for which the Central Government have prepared development schemes and the target fixed to complete those schemes alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development of tourist places in the country is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects under the schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

(c) A project 'Floodlighting of monuments in Rajasthan' has been sanctioned for Rs. 800.00 lakh in the current financial year. This project covers 28 monuments spread across different districts such as Jaipur, Karauli, Udaipur, Ajmer, Dausa, Churu, Dholpur, Madhopur, Jaisalmer, Bharatpur, Jhalawar, Bikaner and Kota.

Implementation of projects is the responsibility of the State Government. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of the projects from time to time.

Promotion of tourism in Punjab

404. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals/suggestions made by the State Government of Punjab for the promotion of tourism in that State are presently pending with the Central Government for approval/clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise; and

(c) by when, they are likely to be approved/cleared?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.